



Messengers of Joy

Newsletter for the St. Junipero Serra Region, SFO

Fall 2026

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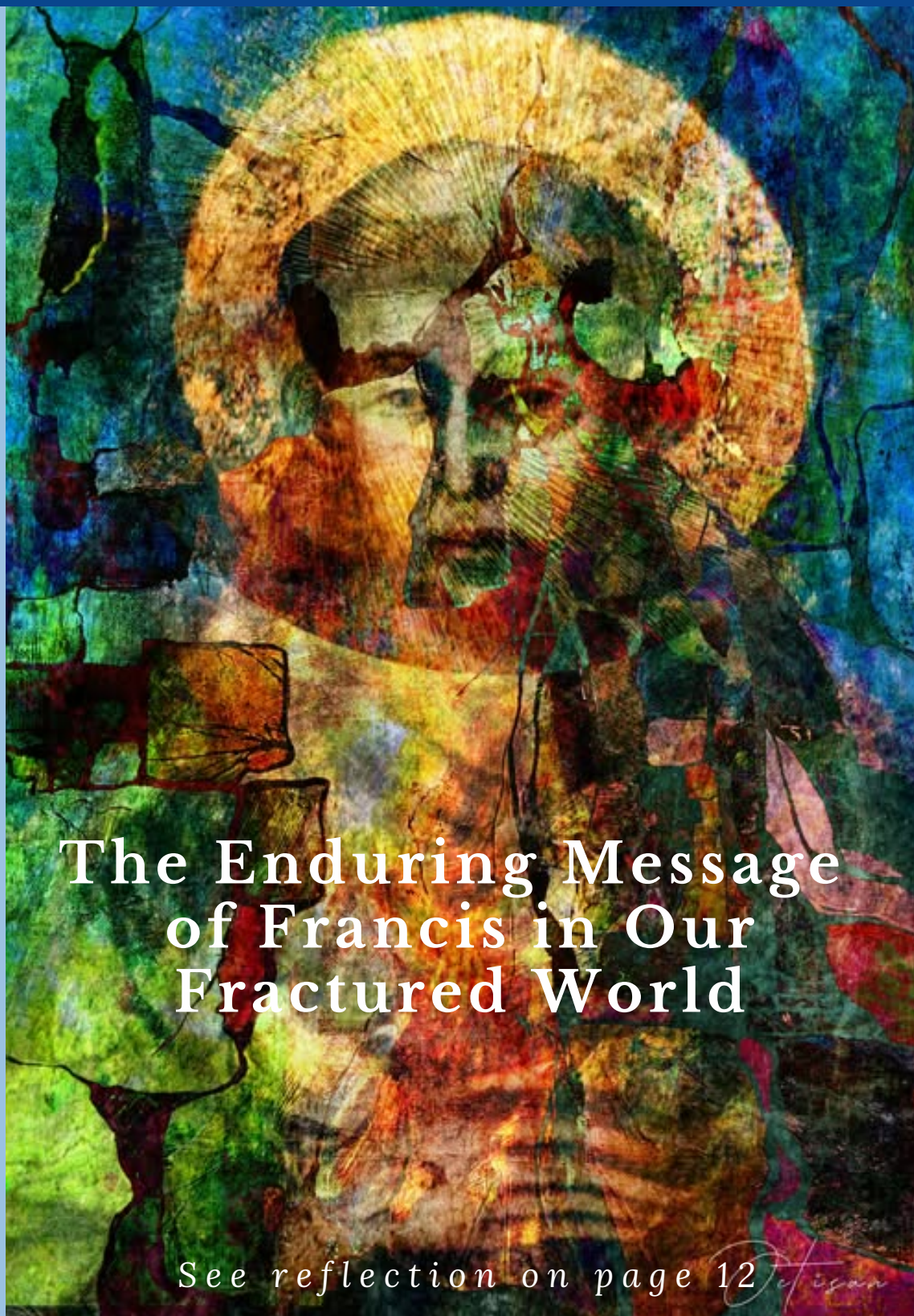
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The Enduring Message of Francis in Our Fractured World

See reflection on page 12

The Joy of Professions!



Front row (l-r): Noli Farwell, OFS, Suzanne Patterson, OFS, Sara Ingalls, OFS, Harry Stoner, OFS, Denise Stoner, OFS, Fr. Ken Laverone, OFM, Margie Hoskin, OFS, Vincent Burke, Sharon Gianelli, OFS;

Back row (l-r): Br. Austin Cambon, OFM Cap, Jennie Lou Tippet, OFS, Lisa Byrum, OFS, Fr. John Fitzgerald, OFS, and Gary Grazioli, OFS.

Recently, Blessed Giles Fraternity of Twain Harte, CA, celebrated the profession of Harry and Denise Stoner, a married couple, on June 6th, 2026.

Please keep our newest Secular Franciscan wife and husband in your prayers as they live out and continue to grow in their vocations.

“St. Francis Embracing the World”

At the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption



Photo from Cathedral website: <https://smcsf.org/>

Visitors entering St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco encounter a striking image of the city's patron, St. Francis of Assisi, seemingly embracing the world. Created by Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz, the bronze figure stands in the cathedral's entrance plaza and honors the Jubilee Year of St. Francis.

Francis appears among figures representing people from different walks of life journeying toward Christ. His welcoming gesture beautifully reflects the Franciscan values of peace, humility, fraternity, and service, reminding us that no one stands outside God's invitation.

The image is especially meaningful in the city that bears Francis' name.

The saint who embraced the poor, sought reconciliation, and recognized every person as brother or sister continues to extend that welcome through this remarkable work of art.

For Franciscans today, the sculpture offers a simple challenge:
How wide is our own embrace?

From the Minister's desk ...



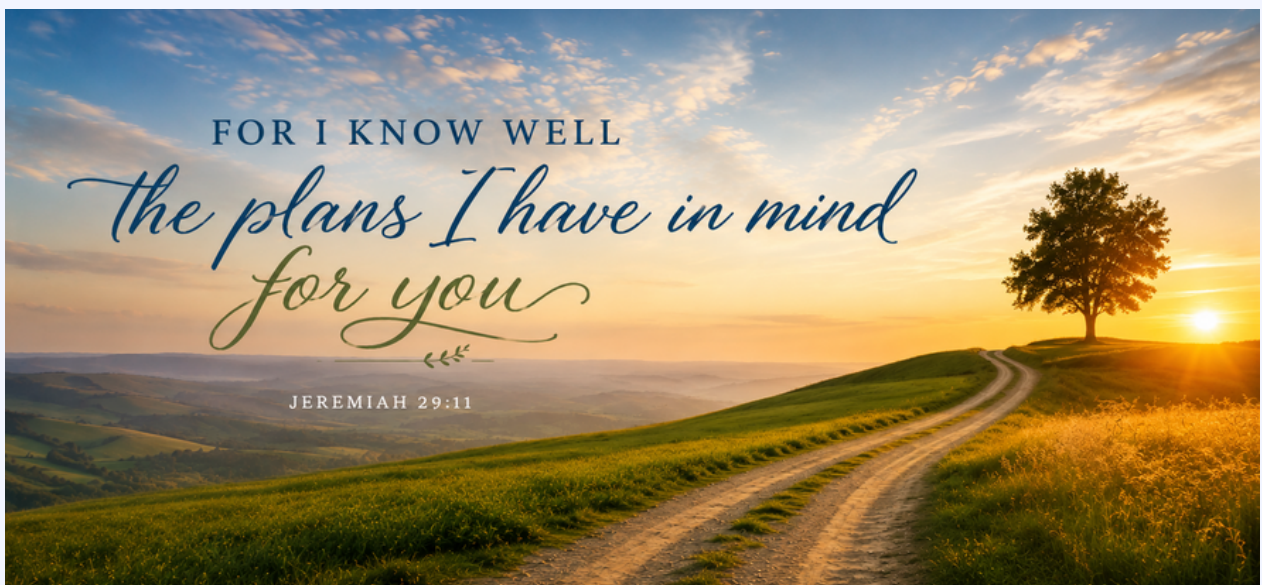
For I know well the plans I have in mind for you—oracle of the LORD—plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope. When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me—oracle of the LORD—and I will change your lot; I will gather you together from all the nations and all the places to which I have banished you—oracle of the LORD—and bring you back to the place from which I have exiled you. (Jeremiah, Ch 29, v 11-14)

God spoke to His people in Babylon through his oracle, Jeremiah. He promised them salvation and restoration. They suffered their fate. They were a lot like Secular Franciscans--- looking for God in Babylon while being reassured that God has not forgotten. Franciscans are brothers and sisters of penance and action.

It is easy to look and see the changes coming for fall. And boy, howdy, the changes keep getting harder to overlook! Fires, earthquakes, floods, war and famine meet us every day. With Christ in the Eucharist, we have no room for fear. Worldly trauma is nothing in comparison.

Kathleen Molaro from our Region made a great point in the recent Tau: In the Our Father, “Thy kingdom come” deserves an added thought: “my kingdom go.” God is good and in charge.

Fred Stein, OFS



SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES: ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI AND MISSION DOLORES



Franciscan CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPT. 17		11 a.m. Mass for the Feast of the Stigmata of Saint Francis at the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi
SEPT. 20		12:30 p.m. Jubilee Mass at Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church (a pilgrimage site) in East Palo Alto <i>celebrated by Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone.</i>
OCT. 3		11 a.m. Morning Prayer Service at Mission Dolores. Reception in the parking lot following prayer service. 7:30 p.m. Transitus Service at the Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi <i>celebrating the 800th anniversary of his death.</i>
OCT. 4		11 a.m. Mass for the Solemnity of Saint Francis celebrated by Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone at the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi 11 a.m. Mass and Eucharistic Procession for the Solemnity of Saint Francis at Mission Dolores Basilica
OCT. 9		12 p.m. Interfaith Prayer Service with faith and civic leaders at Misión San Francisco de Asís
OCT. 10		11 a.m. Concelebrated Missa Sancti Juniperi Serra at Mission Dolores celebrated by Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone; Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ homilist. <i>Reception in auditorium hosted by the Benedict XVI Institute.</i>
OCT. 14		6 p.m. Pre-Opening Gala for the Sacred Relics of Saint Francis of Assisi and California Mission Exhibit
OCT. 16		5 p.m. Opening Ceremonies: sacred concert, Mass, ribbon cutting, and banquet in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi with viewing and veneration of the sacred relics from Assisi and exhibit of the California Missions at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption. Bishop Steven J. Lopes, Bishop of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, celebrant.

In 2026, the Archdiocese of San Francisco marks two historic milestones: the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi and the 250th anniversary of Mission San Francisco de Asís (Mission Dolores).

Together, these anniversaries invite prayer, pilgrimage, celebration, and renewed reflection on the enduring Franciscan legacy.

Click Image for
ADSF Website on
Special Anniversary



<https://sfarch.org/anniversaries/>



This October

WE WELCOME YOU TO

FRANCISCAN MONTH

Franciscan Month celebrates the Franciscan way of life, educates others about this way, and offers a prayerful perspective on living Franciscan in today's world.

“I entreat all my friars, ministers, and subjects to put away every attachment, all care and solicitude, and serve, love, honor, and adore our Lord and God with a pure heart and mind.”

— ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Each week of October, we gather around a theme drawn from the Franciscan tradition —
inviting reflection, action, and community.



WEEK I:
Meeting St. Francis and St. Clare



WEEK II:
Opening Our Hearts to God's Love



WEEK III:
Caring for the Earth, Our Sacred Home



WEEK IV:
Living the Gospel Through Compassion



WEEK V:
Living Simply with God: Purpose and Service

EXPLORE
Franciscan Month

RESOURCES • PRAYERS • STORIES • COMMUNITY



VISIT THE WEBSITE:
www.franciscanmonth.org/



Meet a Franciscan Saint ... Saint Veronica Giuliani

*Mystic and Stigmatist: A Franciscan Heart
Conformed to the Crucified Christ*



Among the great Franciscan saints, St. Veronica Giuliani (1660–1727) stands as a remarkable witness to the transforming power of God's love. A Capuchin Poor Clare nun, Veronica dedicated her life to prayer, penance, and intercession for the salvation of souls.

From an early age, she desired nothing more than to belong completely to Christ, a desire that deepened throughout her religious life and eventually led to extraordinary mystical experiences, including the stigmata and a profound union with the suffering Lord. Yet, beneath these remarkable gifts was a woman of deep humility and unwavering obedience to the Church.

What makes St. Veronica especially relevant to Franciscans today is not the extraordinary nature of her mystical experiences, but her wholehearted embrace of the Franciscan path of poverty, simplicity, and love of the Crucified Christ. Her spirituality reminds us that holiness is found not in seeking extraordinary experiences but in faithfully accepting God's will in the ordinary circumstances of daily life. Her extensive spiritual diary reveals a heart continually converted by prayer, the Eucharist, and devotion to the Passion of Christ, while her years as abbess demonstrated compassionate leadership rooted in charity rather than authority.

As Secular Franciscans, we are invited to imitate St. Veronica's steadfast trust in God's providence, her love for the Eucharist, and her willingness to offer herself in service to others. Her life encourages us to carry our own crosses with hope, confident that every act of faithful love draws us more deeply into communion with Christ. May her example inspire us to renew our commitment to living the Gospel with joyful humility, just as our Seraphic Father, St. Francis, taught.

Formation Directors: You Are Not Alone, or Shouldn't Be!



Kathleen Molaro, OFS, *Regional Formation Director*

Purpose of Formation

Article 22 of our *Rule* reminds us that “the local fraternity is the privileged place for developing a sense of Church and the Franciscan family and for enlivening the apostolic life of its members.”

Article 23 continues to explain our responsibility, stating that “the entire community is engaged in this process of growth (formation) by its manner of living.”

Who are the Formators?

Those elected as formation directors have said yes to an immense and meaningful responsibility—one that is often rewarding, but too large to carry alone.

Formation was never meant to be a one-person job; our *FUN* and *Formation* manuals remind us that it is the shared work of the Holy Spirit, the person in formation, the fraternity, the Council and Minister, the Formator, and the Spiritual Assistant.

Zoom Invitation! Mark your calendars now!

<https://ofm.org/en/francis-of-assisi-a-seed-for-eternal-life.html>

Formation Directors and anyone else interested are invited to attend a two-part Zoom gathering on Monday, Sept. 14, 7:00-8:30. First, we will meet one another and exchange ideas for invigorating formation programs through shared fraternity involvement. Then, we'll experience a taste of ongoing formation using the resource *Francis of Assisi: A Seed for Eternal Life*.

This series includes three sessions (60-90 minutes each) written by the Minister Generals of the four OFM obediences, the Minister General of the Secular Franciscan Order, and the President of the IFC-TOR. The document includes discussion topics, prayers, and take-home suggestions. The authors write, “With this letter, we wish to thank the Lord for the seed of the Gospel that he planted in the Church 800 years ago and which is still alive and fruitful today.”

Please join us on Zoom to share ideas and to explore these sessions together and discern how the resource might help your fraternity finish the Jubilee Year of St. Francis in an uplifting and meaningful way.

All are welcome to participate in this opportunity for connection, encouragement, and discussion of shared Franciscan formation. If, as formation director, you are unable to attend, please send a representative from your fraternity. Watch for more information and the Zoom invitation in the coming weeks.



**Members of St. Junipero Serra Region who attended the “Q” (l-r):
Bro. Chris Best, OFM, Bro. Bob Brady, OFM, Dianne Prior, OFS,
Kathleen Molaro, OFS, Noreen Ringlein, OFS, Edd Ringlein, OFS,
Scott Langston, OFS, Sara Ingalls, OFS, Fred Stein, OFS, and
Fr. John De La Riva, OFM Cap. (Not pictured: Dirk Wohlauf, OFS)**



Kathleen Molaro, OFS

SJSR YouFra Animator

kmmolaro@gmail.com

What the younger generations are saying they need from us ...



Encounter—Presence—Prayer Inspiration—Witness—and Love

There are many ways to be present to our younger generation. Are you and your fraternity finding ways to reach out? Are you inviting them to your evenings of prayer or JPIC events? Are you on your best behavior—showing joy, kindness and respect when in their presence? Do you pray for them at your fraternity gatherings? Do you pay attention to events happening in your parish or community that provide opportunities for you to help out?

There are many ways to fulfill our responsibility to bring the gospel to our younger generations and to help them learn (and witness) what it means to live a gospel life. One of the goals we have as a region is to take this mission more seriously.

We are forming a team to explore the topic of how to inspire the region and provide the resources necessary to step forward in this important area of fraternity life. If you wish to join the discussion, please let me know. And, we would also love to hear from you so we can share the good news and motivate and support one another.

Thank you for loving our young people.

I look forward to hearing from you!



Edd Ringlein, OFS **Regional Treasurer**

My Journey to the Secular Franciscan Order

My journey toward becoming a Secular Franciscan began long before I ever knew where it would lead. In 1980, while involved with the Abalone Alliance, an organization opposing nuclear power and nuclear weapons, I met Noreen as we worked together organizing nonviolent training. Our work centered on educating the public, seeking justice, and raising awareness about the dangers and concerns surrounding nuclear technology, particularly at Diablo Canyon.

The Abalone Alliance taught me the importance of community, consensus, nonviolence, and standing with others for what we believed was right. We organized demonstrations, supported those willing to risk arrest, and worked to bring attention to issues that affected both people and creation. These experiences shaped my understanding of peace and justice, but they also left me searching for something deeper.

Noreen and I were practicing Catholics, and during a period between protest actions, we began looking for something that could provide a spiritual foundation for the values we were trying to live. We discovered the Conventual Franciscan Novitiate in Arroyo Grande, California. That discovery opened the door to a Franciscan journey that would become an important part of our lives.

After marrying at Mission San Luis Obispo, we moved to Petaluma to raise our family. Finding a Franciscan fraternity nearby proved difficult until our friend Juana Fisher, OFS, told us about the newly forming Il Poverello Fraternity.

In 2013, Noreen and I were welcomed into the fraternity. Two years later, in 2015, we made our profession as Secular Franciscans. Since my profession, I have served the Secular Order in several servant leadership roles. I have served my fraternity as vice-minister, and I currently serve as minister. I am also humbled to serve the region, recently as vice-minister and currently as the regional treasurer.

Looking back, I see that my path to Francis began with my desire for peace and justice. Francis helped me understand that those values could become more than activism—they could become a Gospel-rooted way of life.

The Enduring Message of Francis in Our Fractured World

Continued from Cover Page



*St. Francis,
original,
by Cimabue*

Eight hundred years after his death, St. Francis of Assisi emerges from the canvas like a phoenix breaking through centuries of tradition. This unconventional artistic interpretation—vibrant, cracked, and deliberately challenging—mirrors the very world Francis sought to heal during his lifetime and the one we inhabit today.

The image before us defies expectation. Where Cimabue once painted serene sanctity, we now see a Francis fragmented yet radiant, broken yet beautiful. The non-traditional colors and deliberate cracks aren't flaws—they're honest reflections of our reality. Just as Francis embraced lepers and outcasts, this artistic vision embraces imperfection as a pathway to truth.

Our world remains stubbornly imperfect. Poverty persists alongside abundance. Wars rage while peace treaties gather dust. Hunger gnaws at millions while others debate portion sizes. Envy and jealousy poison relationships that could flourish with compassion. Despair shadows communities that once thrived on hope. This isn't pessimism—it's acknowledgment of the human condition Francis understood intimately.

The beauty of this artistic interpretation lies in its refusal to sanitize reality. Like a newborn bird struggling through its shell, Francis breaks through eight centuries of idealized imagery to speak directly to our contemporary struggles. The cracks in the painting become fissures of light, suggesting that brokenness itself can be sacred.

Francis's message transcends time because human nature remains constant. His call to radical simplicity challenges our consumer culture. His embrace of poverty questions our material obsessions. His love for creation confronts our environmental negligence. His commitment to peace stands against our perpetual conflicts.

The vibrant, unconventional colors in this portrayal suggest that following Francis doesn't require conformity to traditional expectations. Instead, it demands authentic engagement with our broken world. The saint who stripped naked in the town square to reject his father's wealth would likely appreciate art that strips away comfortable conventions.

Today, as eight centuries ago, we need Francis's radical candor. We need his reminder that we are created beings, capable of inspired living despite—or perhaps because of—our imperfections. The cracked, colorful Francis in this image doesn't offer easy answers but rather an invitation: to find hope within brokenness, to discover beauty within chaos, and to live as authentic human beings in an authentically imperfect world.



From ***The Franciscan Way Magazine***,

April 21, 2026



Franciscan Wisdom for an Artificial Intelligence Age

Dcn. Mark Kroncke, OFS, D.Min.
RSA Liaison

Artificial intelligence is changing how we work, communicate, learn, and even pray. Pope Leo XIV's *Magnifica Humanitas* reminds us that the central question is not whether technology is good or bad, but whether it serves the dignity of the human person and the common good. That concern resonates deeply with the Franciscan tradition, which has always placed relationships above efficiency and people above possessions. This encyclical calls the Church to ensure that human intelligence, guided by conscience and freedom, remains responsible for directing technological innovation rather than being directed by it.

St. Francis of Assisi offers a remarkably relevant response to today's digital challenges. His life was marked by simplicity, humility, and attentive presence. He encountered Christ not through power or productivity, but in relationships—with God, with the poor, with creation, and with every person he met. These values provide an essential counterbalance to a culture now increasingly shaped by algorithms, automation, and constant digital engagement.

Recent scholarship on AI ethics similarly emphasizes that technology must remain human-centered, requiring accountability, transparency, and moral discernment rather than relying on technical capability alone. Scholars increasingly argue that ethical principles must be embodied in communities and practices, not merely expressed in policy statements. For Franciscans, this means embracing AI as a servant rather than a master.

Artificial intelligence can support ministry, education, communications, and evangelization, but it can never replace the compassionate gaze, listening heart, or fraternal presence that characterize authentic Franciscan life. Just as St. Francis embraced every creature as brother or sister, we are called to ensure that every technological innovation strengthens communion rather than isolation, service rather than domination, and hope rather than fear.

In an age captivated by artificial intelligence, the Franciscan tradition gently reminds us that humanity's greatest gift is not the intelligence we create, but the love we freely choose to share. That is the true gift of our *Magnificent Humanity*!



Guides to Pope Leo's First Encyclical: *Magnifica Humanitas*

For anyone looking to explore Pope Leo XIV's *Magnifica Humanitas* more deeply, Ascension Press has produced two outstanding companion resources. A Complete Guide to Pope Leo's First Encyclical: *Magnifica Humanitas* introduces the document's major themes, explains its connection to Catholic Social Teaching, and offers practical insights into the Pope's vision for safeguarding human dignity in the age of artificial intelligence. The accompanying *Magnifica Humanitas* Content Hub gathers articles, videos, study materials, key quotations, and discussion resources in one convenient location, making it an excellent companion for both individual reflection and fraternity study. Whether you are reading the encyclical for the first time or leading a discussion, these accessible resources will help you engage more deeply with Pope Leo's timely call to place the human person, created in the image of God, at the center of our technological future.



**Everything You
Need to Know
About *Magnifica
Humanitas***



**Read About
Pope Leo XIV's First
Encyclical**

Click on Above Logos to Open in a New Window

Image from: Clerical Whispers: "Magnifica Humanitas": Leo XIV's Rerum Novarum moment

His Body and Blood - Franciscan Saints on the Eucharist



If your love for the Eucharist is inspired by the Franciscan tradition, EWTN's *His Body and Blood: Franciscan Saints on the Eucharist* is well worth watching. This beautifully produced docudrama explores the profound Eucharistic spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi and follows its expression in the lives of St. Clare, St. Paschal Baylon, and St. Padre Pio. Through dramatic storytelling and historical reflection, the program reveals how devotion to the Real Presence shaped the lives, prayer, and ministry of these beloved Franciscan saints.

Whether viewed personally or with your fraternity, this inspiring presentation offers a renewed appreciation for the Eucharist as the heart of Franciscan life and a powerful invitation to deepen our own love for Christ truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

**HIS BODY AND BLOOD
FRANCISCAN SAINTS
ON THE EUCHARIST**

Click on Above Graphic to Open Video in YouTube

A Franciscan Education ... Knowledge in the Service of Love

Dcn. Mark Kroncke, OFS, D.Min., *RSA Liaison*



St. Bernard of Clairvaux is often credited with a wonderful observation about learning: “There are those who seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge: that is curiosity. There are those who seek knowledge to be known by others: that is vanity. But there are also those who seek knowledge in order to serve: that is love.”

That distinction could serve as a description of the Franciscan approach to education. Francis of Assisi was not a university-trained scholar. In fact, he was initially cautious about his brothers pursuing advanced learning. The young fraternity was supposed to follow the poor and humble Christ, not become another collection of prestigious scholars. Francis understood that knowledge could easily become another possession—something that separated the learned from the simple and tempted a friar toward status and pride.

Yet Francis did not reject learning itself. When Anthony of Padua emerged as a gifted teacher, Francis famously gave him permission to teach theology to the brothers, provided that such study did not “extinguish the spirit of prayer and devotion.” That qualification became enormously important. Learning was welcome, but learning had to serve the Gospel.

Within a generation, Franciscans were teaching at the great medieval centers of learning, including Paris and Oxford. The tradition produced extraordinary scholars such as Alexander of Hales, St. Bonaventure, Blessed John Duns Scotus, and others. Franciscan thinkers became intellectual masters of the medieval Church, helping establish a tradition that continues in Franciscan schools and universities today.

Seculars today can participate in many programs of study, such as at the Franciscan School of Theology, which describes Franciscan education as bringing education and spirituality together for “real-world impact.” Its mission connects theological knowledge with ministry and solidarity with those on the margins. That sounds remarkably close to Bernard’s vision of education.

For Secular Franciscans, that may be the point. We study Scripture, theology, Franciscan history, and our Rule not simply so that we know more, but so that we can love better. Franciscan education should move from the mind, through the heart, and finally into our hands.

Knowledge becomes Franciscan when it becomes service. And education can be a path to that knowledge. However we may approach education from a Franciscan perspective, may we too “seek knowledge in order to serve; that is love.”

The Franciscan School of Theology offers online workshops and talks on many areas of Franciscan life and theology. These can be found on their YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@franciscanschooloftheology/videos>



- A MISSION TO THE MISSIONS - SEPTEMBER 2026

A Trip with a Zero Emission Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle to Commemorate the Jubilee Year of St. Francis – The Patron Saint of Care for Creation



- SPIRITUAL SUPPORTER -
ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH,
GRASS VALLEY
CREATION CARE TEAM



- SECULAR SUPPORTER -
California
Hydrogen Car Owners
Association
For the Future

SCHEDULE OF VISITS – SEPTEMBER 2026

DATE	VISIT	ADDRESS	ONSITE
Fri., Sept. 18	San Diego de Alcalá	10818 San Diego Mission Rd San Diego	2 pm to 4 pm
Sun., Sept. 20	San Juan Capistrano	26801 Old Mission Rd San Juan Capistrano	1 pm to 3 pm
Mon., Sept. 21	Santa Barbara	2201 Laguna St Santa Barbara	1 pm to 3 pm
Tues., Sept. 22	La Purísima	2295 Purísima Rd Lompoc	1 pm to 3 pm
Wed., Sept. 23	San Carlos de Borromeo	3080 Rio Rd Carmel-by-the-Sea	2 pm to 4 pm
Thurs., Sept. 24	Santa Clara de Asís	500 El Camino Real Santa Clara	2 pm to 4 pm
Fri., Sept. 25	San Francisco de Solano	114 East Spain St Sonoma	2 pm to 4 pm
Sat., Sept. 26	St. Francis High School	5900 Elvas Ave Sacramento	10 am to 12 pm

Stop by and say, “Hi” during our visits to the missions.
We will welcome the company.



In concert with the precepts laid out in *Laudato Si'* regarding, “Caring for our Common Home” – in large part by reducing dependency on fossil fuels – we will have our Toyota Mirai on display. The Mirai (“Future” in Japanese.) is a zero-emission hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicle.

Questions?

Greg Cane: greg@h2tonps.org
Bobbie Cane: bobbie@h2tonps.org

Keep These Dates Open!

800th Jubilee of St Francis of Assisi **CAPUCHIN EVENTS** **WESTERN AMERICAN PROVINCE**

National Shrine of St Francis

San Francisco, CA

October 3rd – Transitus of St. Francis

October 4th – 11 AM Mass – Feast of St. Francis

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone

Our Lady of the Angels Parish

Burlingame, CA

September 13, 2026 – Centenary Opening Mass

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone

December 10, 2026 – Centenary Mass and Reception

Relics of St Francis and St Clare

Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption

San Francisco, CA

October 16 – November 26, 2026

Relics of St. Francis and St. Clare will include both breviaries, the bandage from Francis' side wound, and the stretcher (board) that held his body.



FRANCISCAN NOVENA PILGRIMAGE



A Franciscan Novena Justice and Peace Pilgrimage, presented by the **St. Francis of Assisi Fraternity** of Sacramento

We create change and support for justice, peace, and integrity of creation by remembering that we stand on the shoulders of the giants who have gone before us. We offer the following novena of Sacramento Sacred Places of Remembrance as a tool for reflection in service of action following the Franciscan tradition of preference for the poor and marginalized.

We invite you to visit each of the nine novena sacred places in the Sacramento area, to reflect on the historical meaning of each place, and to pray along alone or in a group with the novena prayer aid.

Visit each place over a span of months or in a single day. Visit one place which may have special meaning for you. But, above all, spend some time remembering In order to guide us all in creating positive change for future generations. For maps, directions, and prayers please go to the Pilgrimage Resources page.

[CLICK HERE FOR PILGRIMAGE START AND RESOURCES](https://stfrancisfraternitysacto.org/news/franciscan-novena-pilgrimage/)

<https://stfrancisfraternitysacto.org/news/franciscan-novena-pilgrimage/>



JUBILEE YEAR OF
**SAINT
FRANCIS**
1226- 2026

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed the special Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi from January 10, 2026, to January 10, 2027.

All members of Franciscan religious orders and the faithful can obtain plenary indulgences for visiting any conventional Franciscan church or place of worship anywhere in the world dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi.

This page (link below) provides a locator for Franciscan sites operated by the Conventual and Capuchin orders and the Order of Friars Minor.

The list is not exhaustive, as the Pope considers all churches dedicated to St. Francis as pilgrimage sites.

Here are the conditions for obtaining the indulgence:

- Follow the usual conditions of a plenary indulgence: sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion, and prayer according to the intentions of the Holy Father
- Participate in the Year of Saint Francis by visiting, in the form of a pilgrimage, any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship anywhere in the world dedicated to Saint Francis or connected to him for any reason
- Devoutly follow the Jubilee rites or spend at least a reasonable period of time in pious meditation and raise prayers to God
- Conclude with the Our Father, the Creed, and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Clare, and all the Saints of the Franciscan Family.

[Search here for pilgrimage sites](#)

**Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago
went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace,
intercede for us before the Lord.**

**You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano,
teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation
that breaks down every wall.**

**You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding,
give us the courage to build bridges
where the world raises up boundaries.**

**In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us
so that we may become peacemakers:
unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.**

Amen

Prayer of Pope Leo XIV

Prayer for Servant Leadership

Here is the official Prayer for the Servant Leader from the Secular Franciscan Order, which can be used in personal or communal prayer to cultivate humility, truth, and peace in leadership:

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like your own.
That we come together in your name – Lord Jesus, make this my desire.
That we all allow the interests of your Kingdom to win out,
That your love and truth guide us always,
That we truly listen to each other and speak in freedom and simplicity,
That we not think in categories of winning and losing,
That we recognize your gift and your project,
That we always choose whatever gives you the most glory.

From the desire to always be right
From the desire to impose my point of view,
From the desire to win out over others,
Lord Jesus, free me.

From the fear of conflict,
From the fear of making a mistake,
From the fear of looking bad,
Lord Jesus, free me.

From rejecting those who see things differently,
From listening only to those who see things as I do,
From all prejudices that prevent me from listening,
Lord Jesus, free me.

From thinking only of myself,
From the difficulty to admit I am wrong,
From all desires and attachments that keep you from acting in me,
Lord Jesus, free me

Pour out on us, O Lord, we pray, a spirit of truth,
understanding and peace,
that we may know with all our hearts what is pleasing to you and
with one accord, pursue what we have come to know.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

St. Junipero Serra Region

AREA COUNCILORS' FRATERNITY ASSIGNMENTS

AREA 1 - Sacramento Area: Sara Ingalls, OFS

*St. Francis & St. Clare / Paradise
Little Portion / Auburn
St. Francis / Sacramento
St. Francis / Reno
Blessed Giles of Assisi / Twain Harte*

AREA 2 - East & North Bay Area: Michael Wharton, OFS

*Il Poverello / Petaluma
St. Thomas More / El Cerrito
St. Junipero Serra / Walnut Creek
St. Elizabeth / Oakland
Mt. Alverno / Redwood City
Servants of God / Oakland (Chinese Speaking)*

AREA 3 - Peninsula Area: Dirk Wohlau, OFS

*St. Francis of Assisi / San Francisco
St. Anthony of Padua / San Francisco
Sung Antonio / San Francisco (Korean speaking)
Our Lady of Angels / Burlingame
St. Paul Chung Hasang / San Jose (Korean speaking)*

AREA 4 - Southern Area: Brian Simmons, OFS

*St. Joseph / Bakersfield
Sacred Heart / San Jose
St. Mary / Visalia
St. Michael / San Miguel, Atascadero
St. John the Baptist / Fresno
Junipero Serra of Carmel / San Juan Bautista*

Multicultural Councilor: Martha Arellano, OFS

*San Felipe de Jesus / Oakland (Spanish speaking)
San Pedro Bautista y Companeros Martires (Spanish speaking)
Santisima Trinidad / Greenfield* (Spanish speaking)*

**David Tercero, OFS, to help w Santisima Trinidad*



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National SFO-NAFRA Website

San Damiano Retreat



Our Lady of Guadalupe -
Franciscan Friars

Capuchin Franciscans
Western American Province



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Contact us at:

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